



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DISPLACED AIRLINE INDUSTRY AND RELATED WORKERS  
TO RECEIVE EXTRA WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**HONOLULU** - The State Labor Director announced today that displaced workers from the airline and related industries will receive an additional 39 weeks of unemployment benefits under federally-funded Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC-A). Airline and related industries include air carriers, businesses operating at an airport, or businesses supplying or producing services or products to an air carrier. Since the state already provides up to 26 weeks unemployment benefits, unemployed workers of these industries may receive a total of up to 65 weeks of unemployment benefits.

"This legislation provides relief to workers in industries that have been significantly impacted by the continuing war on terrorism and other global events," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. It is part of the \$78.5 billion Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003, which President Bush signed on April 16, 2003.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, approximately 115,000 airline workers nationwide have lost their jobs and the unemployment rate in this industry is 15 percent, which is nearly three times the national rate.

The federal government has been paying since March 2002, an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to jobless workers in all industries upon exhaustion of regular unemployment benefits. For non-airline workers, TEUC benefits will not exceed the 13-week maximum and will not be available after August 30, 2003.

The Department will mail notices today to approximately 8,000 individuals who have already exhausted their existing TEUC benefits and may be eligible for TEUC-A. The notice will provide more specific information on the special eligibility conditions that must be met for this new airline-related extension to apply.

Individuals who believe they qualify may call Hawaii Tele-Claim, the telephone filing service, to file for TEUC-A:

- Within the State of Hawaii: 643-5555
- Outside the State of Hawaii: 1-877-215-5793 (toll-free).

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